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SHOWTIME

Ratner, Nets deal near

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Developer Bruce Ratner is close to bringing the New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn, sources close to the negotiations said.

Ratner wants to build a Park, Gehry-designed arena for the team at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

Details of the more than \$300 million sale are still being worked out and a final an-

nouncement could come "any day now," sources close to the negotiations told The Brooklyn Papers on Thursday.

"It becomes a reality it would be a dream for me," said Borough President Marty Markowitz, who has been championing the effort to bring a professional sports team back to Brooklyn ever since he took office in 2002.

Ratner was reportedly in final negotiations to purchase the reigning NBA Eastern Conference champions and bring them to Downtown Brooklyn. Some published reports cited sources close to the negotiations of the Nets were now negotiating exclusively with Ratner.

Ratner spokesman Joe Deplasco declined to comment on the negotiations, while Alan McGillion, a spokesman for Nets parent company YankeeNets, also declined to comment.

The second highest bid has been from New Jersey real es-

tate developer Charles Kushner and Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), who together have bid \$267.6 million to keep the Nets in New Jersey.

Reached Thursday, a spokesman for Kushner insisted they are still in the running to purchase the team.

"It's the funnest thing from the standpoint of us as far as we can tell," said Michael Turner, a Kushner spokesman. "While our bid contains certainties including an existing arena, [the Brooklyn bid is based on speculation and uncertainties and contingencies that have yet to be explained]."

Asked whether they had, or would, up their bid, Turner said they were "currently reviewing the financials." He said they had planned to make a move later this month.

New York financier Stuart Feldman, reportedly has the third-highest bid at \$257.5 million.

If Ratner is successful, and able to get approval to build the arena, the plan has the support of the mayor and borough president and opposition to the arena has thus far been limited to residents and elected officials.

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where it would be built — the site

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Carroll Gardens loses beloved 'veggie stand'

By Kristen Hinman

For The Brooklyn Papers

Carroll Gardens has lost one of its most colorful characters and with her a neighborhood institution that harked back to the area's Italian immigrant roots.

Frances Vuoso, 84, owner of the George & Son Fruit Market on Court Street between Second Place and Third Place, suffered a fatal heart attack on Nov. 8. The store, called "the veggie stand" by residents, has been shuttered ever since.

A neighborhood favorite for more than 50 years, George & Son had been struggling, and a tenant in the building says Vuoso's son, Jerry Vuoso, will not reopen the business.

Until she died, Frances would walk to the market from her apartment almost daily, then sit at Jerry's side. In between snippets of Italian conversation with longtime customers and friends, she perched back and forth inside the store, never sitting still for long.

"Ma, you got a ten?" Jerry would ask when making change for a customer.

An ancient case register backed the counter of the store, but Frances Vuoso stashed most of the bills in the frayed pockets of her floral smock.

How many years had she kept the money? "Fifteen," she grunted during a conversation earlier this fall. Too many to count.

George & Son was opened in 1928, when Frances' father-in-law arrived in Carroll Gardens from Sicily, buying a storefront chestnut-brown building two 32-pound scales in the rear of the shop and placed a manual, chi-ching cash register in the left-hand corner. Every original accoutrement remains.

The only wall not studded with blond honeydew melons or sparkling lemons was plastered with roughly 70 pictures



Shuttered George & Son Fruit Market, on Court Street near Second Place, displays a sign honoring Frances Vuoso, "Beloved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her" (at left).

and postcards: Frances sweeped the sidewalk, her grandson becoming a firefighter, the Last Supper.

Frances' husband took over George & Son some 50 years ago, and Jerry became the delivery boy at age 12. Customers tipped him in milk bottles, he said, worth 2 cents for each return.

"A quarter was a great tip," he said. "You got it sometimes if you had to go up and down stairs twice."

At 11, Jerry left school, New York City, and worked full-time at George & Son ever since, sharing his favorite Italian recipes, like macaroni with broccoli rabe, with a dwindling number of Italian-American customers.

Breasted rabe is an old standby of family-style Italian cuisine. But fewer and fewer of George & Son's shoppers

recognized the dark green head of ferns and edible, tender leaves.

That's partly because much of the neighborhood's old crop of Italian-American residents has fled to the suburbs or states with warmer climates. And also because the new crop of young, urban professionals from various ethnic backgrounds — don't worship the kitchen.

"The old-timers aren't here cooking anymore," Frances lamented a few weeks ago.

"The veggie stand" was by no means Carroll Gardens' last mom-and-pop business. But in food — as much an anchor of Italian-American culture as family — George & Son represented a winning Son represented a winning formula.

Jerry begins most days at 4:30 a.m., driving to wholesale food markets in Canarsie or Hunts Point. He never reads produce labels.

"I taste it," he said. "If it's good, I buy it."

By 8 a.m., a sidewalk table in front of 414 Court St. would hold California nectaries, and wrinkled canisters red and green, would flash the standard price for nearly all of the store's produce: 99 cents a pound.

The market's prices reflect those of the other Court Street businesses, though day after day, prices at the Key Food supermarket across the street were slightly higher. But when Key Food ran a sale on 99-cent produce, Jerry said felt the effect. "I can't compete because of the volume," he said. "They buy up an entire item, and nobody else can buy anything."

He estimated George & Son's sales had declined 10 percent since Sept. 11, 2001. After the attacks, he said, many long-time Carroll Gardens residents left New York. Vuoso's neighbor and tenant, Marty Jacobs, said revenues for his business, the nearby Deli Break, had also plummeted.

"There are no people left at home," Jacobs said. "The wives and the husbands work." Since Jacobs closes at 5 p.m., he gets little business from working couples, he said.

Jerry, meanwhile, said he couldn't compete with chain supermarkets like Fairway, which is building a megastore in Carroll Gardens, or big-box warehouses like Costco in Sunset Park.

For many customers, a shuttered George & Son's will sever a lifeline. "It reminds me of my grandparents, the type of people they found in their gardens," said Christine Pintabona, of Bennett Place (which connects Luquer to Nelson streets between Court and Smith). A third-generation Italian-American, her family immigrated to New York from Sicily.

"Everything here," she said of the vegetable store, "works its way into dinner."

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Gunpoint robbery at Slope realtor

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Two gun-toting thugs looking for some quick cash bursted into a real estate office on Second Street near Fifth Avenue at 3:15 pm on Jan. 9.

After robbing the office bazaar, they took off and only then flushed their weapons.

One of the suspects threw an employee to the ground and demanded, "Where's the cash?"

The employee led the men to a file cabinet where he had hidden away in the back of a drawer.

But that wasn't enough to satisfy the pair and they demanded more. When there was none to be had, the bandits grew angry and started shouting.

"I find more money somebody is going to die," the suspect said before taking another employee's cell phone and a wallet with \$100 in it.

The suspects then fled towards Fourth Avenue, police said.

Lies in wait

A woman was grabbed by a waiting attacker and slammed against a wall just after entering

78 Pct. Blotter

a building on 14th Street near Fifth Avenue at 12:45 am on Jan. 10.

The suspect pulled out a black handgun and rattled off a litany of instructions including that she should not move him and fork over money.

The victim, 25, lost her wallet, cell phone and iPod MP3 player in the attack, police said.

Subway attack

A 27-year-old woman waiting for the M train on Jan. 9 was attacked from behind at 9:30 am at the Ninth Street and Fourth Avenue subway station.

After trying to unsuccessfully yank a gold chain off the victim's neck, the miscreant pushed the victim to the head and kicked her in the ribs.

Diner pick

An elderly woman was robbed of her pension money at a diner on Fifth Avenue at 10th Street just after noon on Jan. 7.

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sometime between 12:30 am and 3 am on Jan. 3. The thief got away with the brown leather bag, \$15 in cash and a \$20 Metrocard.

GAP muggers

A woman had her purse snatched while walking home through Grand Army Plaza at 6 pm on Jan. 6.

The victim, 19, said she was approached by a band of three who grabbed the bag while she was eating with a \$5, a pair of earrings and the victim's passport.

Fully loaded

A motorist parked his car, packed full with luggage and electronics, on Flatbush Avenue at Pacific Street at 9:10 am on Jan. 4.

The designer heist occurred

sometime between 12:30 am and 3 am on Jan. 3. The thief got away with the brown leather bag, \$15 in cash and a \$20 Metrocard.

Identity theft

Cell phone companies exceeded their calling plans, but one Park Sloper was in for a shock when he received a cell phone bill for \$4,610 this month at his home on Eighth Avenue in Garfield Heights.

The victim, 40, called the phone company and learned that two people had opened up cell phone accounts in his name. Both his date of birth and Social Security number were given to open the account, police said.

But when he returned an hour later the car was missing.

The stolen goods included an IBM Thinkpad computer, valued at \$3,000, a Tumi bag, a garment bag, assorted clothing and a 2001 Honda Accord.

Gun club

Cell phone companies exceeded their calling plans, but one Park Sloper was in for a shock when he received a cell phone bill for \$4,610 this month at his home on Eighth Avenue in Garfield Heights.

The victim, 40, called the phone company and learned that two people had opened up cell phone accounts in his name. Both his date of birth and Social Security number were given to open the account, police said.

The incident occurred sometime between Jan. 3 and 5:10 pm the next day.

Year of the Monkey celebrations in Bklyn

By Joann Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Two separate Chinese New Year events in Brooklyn next weekend will celebrate the start of the Year of the Monkey, a zodiac sign characterized by mavericks and rebels.

The 15th lunar new year, which this year falls on Jan. 22 and ends on Feb. 6, should draw thousands to Sunset Park and Bensonhurst, says organizers.

The Brooklyn Public Library will also host a series of music and film in celebration of Chinese calendar year 4701 at the Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza. These events begin at 11 am on Jan. 24.

"It's the biggest celebration for the Asian community in the whole world," said Paul Mak, president of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, which will host one of the two days of the Brooklyn United Chinese Association next Sunday. "In Brooklyn's Chinatown, it's the most celebrated holiday of the year."

The 16th annual Brooklyn Chinese Association's New Year's Day Parade, on Jan. 25, is expected to draw 20,000 revelers to 50th Street at Eighth Avenue in Sunset Park. Borough President

Marty Markowitz is expected to attend the all-day event, which begins at noon and winds down to 8th Avenue at 61st Street.

Among the events along the route should be a crowd pleaser, said Mak, but he added that the fireworks display, in its second year since the post-9/11 ban was lifted, will add to the excitement.

The highlight of the day, however, will be the lion dance, a traditional performance acted out during the first days of the Chinese New Year that's said to bring good luck to the homes and businesses it passes. Dressed in a lion costume, two dancers control the head and tail of the beast while mimicking movements on drums, gongs and cymbals.

The whole frenzied performance may look chaotic, but it involves years of practice, said Steve Chung, president of the Brooklyn United Chinese Association.

"It's very complicated procedure," said Chung. "It's not as simple as when you watch it."

The Year of the Monkey will be the second year of the decade of the monkey, following 1992, 1980 and 1968, the last three years the primate was celebrated, according to tradition. Monkeys get along swimmingly

with rats, which last celebrated in 1996.

Famous births during years of the monkey include President Harry Truman and Julius Caesar, both of whom share the primate's desire for cleverness and ability to wiggle out of tight situations.

"They are smart, they are lively and they are risk takers," said Chung, who, like Markowitz, is a rocket scientist.

The Brooklyn United Chinese Association will host a more intimate parade a day earlier on Saturday, Jan. 24, that will begin on 86th Street at Bay 25th Street in Bensonhurst and end at 18th Avenue and 60th Street. City Councilman William Colton, a co-sponsor of the event, is also expected to join in the festivities.

Chung said the parade would also include a lion dance featuring two custom-made costumes imported from China.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that JOHN BERTHOLD, 2123 Foster Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11221, will be the subject, on January 27, 2003, of a proceeding in the Kings County Supreme Court, at the Kings County Supreme Court, 25th Street and Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235, to determine whether he is dead. Notice is given that if anyone has knowledge of the whereabouts of JOHN BERTHOLD, he should appear in the Kings County Supreme Court, 25th Street and Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235, on January 27, 2003, at 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as possible, to determine whether he is dead. Yvonne Lewis, At the Kings County Supreme Court, 25th Street and Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235, is the attorney for the人民公眾. This notice is being published in accordance with the provisions of Article 8-B of the General Municipal Law.

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Smart television habits

Q: My 3-year-old is picking up a few words like "stupid" and hearing them say those words makes my husband and others laugh. Of course that just makes my son repeat them. How can I get my family to cooperate and not encourage behavior?

A: Approach the problem in a different way. Turn off the offensive cartoons, not Dad.

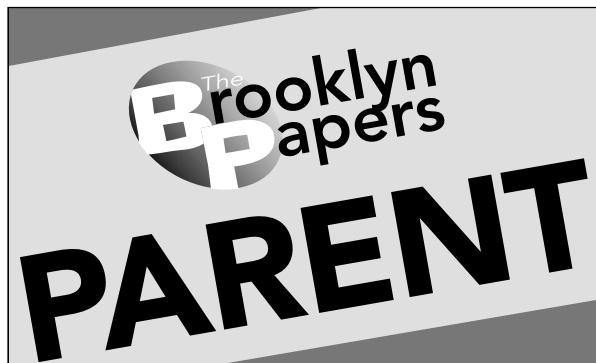
As toddlers and preschoolers pick up new words, they also start to learn catch phrases they hear on shows and commercials — even if they have no clue what they're saying. They might also pick up other bad habits, such as biting or hitting to solve problems. Is it going to be you, or the television, who is your child's earliest, most influential teacher?

"You know the old saying: 'Garbage in, garbage out.' I would suggest that we limit one hour of good-quality shows a day, and watch them with your son," one reader says. "Then turn the TV off, and let him play."

As children build their vocabularies, they typically improve their language skills when adults respond to them, initiate conversation and add words to what their kids say.

"Yes, you have a red ball." Television doesn't have these advantages, but there are choices that can be both entertaining and educational without violence or inappropriate language.

How one mother quickly put a stop to the "you dumb babies" phrase her preschooler acquired from a cartoon. After a week of it, she had heard enough. She then involved her kids in setting up new TV rules, and sent



her son to his room until there was no more talk of "dumb babies."

Dad needs to stop laughing at his son's remarks and start telling the child that "stupid" isn't a nice word to use, one father suggests, and Mom needs to be firm about what she wants the child to learn.

For the under-2 crowd, the American Academy of Pediatrics urges parents not to let them watch television. After age 2, limit television to no more than two or three hours of quality programs a day, the organization says.

One way to stay within these guidelines, some parents find, is to help their kids get into the habit of watching a favorite program or two, then turning off the television. That

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagger

means to develop appropriate TV habits.

It will help but don't

get the whole picture. It's up

to parents to glean the good

out of television and avoid the bad. That's the philosophy behind "The Smart Parent's Guide to Kids' TV" (KQED, 1994) by Milton Chen, PhD, an expert in educational me-

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out of television and avoid the bad. That's the philosophy behind "The Smart Parent's Guide to Kids' TV" (KQED, 1994) by Milton Chen, PhD, an expert in educational me-

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Kids' TV" are available for \$8.95 plus shipping and handling by calling Public TV Book Toll free at (800) 358-3000.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the book and suggests parents:

- Choose shows that shows your family watches weekly.

- Discuss which programs are worthwhile and which can be dropped in favor of other activities.

- Review programs before your kids see them. Talk to friends, teachers and pediatricians to learn what they recommend.

- Select TV programs that build social and other activities, such as reading, hobbies or the outdoors.

- Look for shows with educational content and positive characters and values.

- Take advantage of high-quality programs offered on videocassettes or from other sources.

In the event that the study demonstrates that development over time is feasible, any proposed project would be subject of full environmental review, including the opportunity for extensive public participation. Any developer would also be required to pay any costs incurred by the MTA for design and construction.

The MTA's position with regard to this issue has been clarified.

Mrs. Lapp, Executive Director and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Editor's note: Ms. Lapp's letter does not address the primary point of the above-referenced article — that the MTA's spokesman has asserted that Bruce Ratner held development rights to the train yard property and that the spokesman's assertion had been accurately reported by The Brooklyn Papers.

Mr. Markowitz, Assemblyman

Can you help?

"We think our 5-year-old granddaughter has dyslexia. She's failing nearly everything in third grade and has been diagnosed with AD/HD. We have raised her mom of her own accord since she was one year old. She is having a terrible time socially, at home, and in school and we don't know what to do. As a grandmother, we would like to ask a question, call our toll-free number at any time (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at p2p@nra.org.

Parents concerned about their children's calorie intake can obtain a copy of the new book "To Parent With Love: Getting Over Overeating" by sending a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and S&H to Newsletter, Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

It means that you jumped the gun in assuming that you can move into Stages Three and Four of dating. Exclusivity and Intimacy, without first

moving together into Stage Two. Until then, he has fallen back into this missed stage.

If you chase or berate him at this juncture, your actions may only deepen his concern about the relationship, instead of pride.

When he calls back, don't chastise him, just let him know that you missed him and look forward to when you can get together again.

If and when you schedule another date, take things slow.

You'll need to reconnect in Stage Three, Exclusivity, before moving back into Intimacy, but be sure not to rush this process.

If you want to stay together, you have to first get there — together.

All stages of dating are covered in detail in my book "Mars and Venus on a Date."

Dear John:

So you go away with a

boy for a wonderful vaca-

tion, no hassles, everything

hunk-dory, but after you

come back, he wants his

snow!

What does that mean?

Dear Dropped Child

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John Gray

By John Gray

moving your children into their own beds after they've fallen asleep. For staying put, reward them with stories at bedtime or "wake-up" surprises left next to their beds as they sleep.

Also, allowing the children

Passion demands you move your kids out of bedroom

Dear Editor:

My husband and I have two children, ages 2 and 4. Since their births, we've gotten into the habit of allowing them to sleep with us in our bed. Of course, this has put a damper on sex and romance.

My husband is growing distant, but I am worried that tossing the kids out of the bed will cause them some emotional damage. Will it?

— Four's a Crowd in Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Four's a Crowd:

The communal bed is a natural instinct. Still, you can't have passion without privacy, so don't feel guilty about starting it here.

The goal is to make a successful transition.

It may take a month or more, but start immediately by



By John Gray

moving your children into their own beds after they've fallen asleep. For staying put, reward them with stories at bedtime or "wake-up" surprises left next to their beds as they sleep.

Also, allowing the children

to help decorate their space, such as picking out a comforter, bed lamp, or making pictures for the wall, will reinforce the notion that their rooms are a part of their individual personality.

Just like family members, it will instill a sense of pride. With practice, you'll succeed in convincing them that sleeping in their own beds is not a punishment but a reward. ***

Dear John:

So you go away with a guy for a wonderful vacation, no hassles, everything hunk-dory, but after you come back, he wants his snow!

What does that mean?

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Mulch ado about nothing

Green-Wood Cemetery President Richard Moylan, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Botanic Garden President Judith Zuck and Nicolas Pisano, vice president of the cemetery, help mulch the Borough Hall Christmas tree at the cemetery on Jan. 10. A plan was made to spread the mulch on the graves of past Brooklyn mayors, but cold weather put the kibosh on it.

RATNER...

Continued from page 1

the plans also include 14 residential buildings providing an estimated 4,500 apartments.

The arena development site encompasses about six blocks, part in Prospect Heights, and is located by Dean Street and Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues.

But there are still several obstacles Ratner must overcome to get the deal done. In order to complete the deal, Ratner needs to secure rights from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build over the LIRR yards and needs the state to condemn more than two square blocks of land, including two luxury condominiums and some small businesses.

The sale would have to be approved by three-fourths of the NBA's 28 team owners. Knicks President Charles Dolan has reportedly been lobbying NBA Commissioner Henry Stern not

to allow another team in the city.

A group of vocal neighborhood opponents — including Councilwoman Letitia James and state Sen. Velmetta Montgomery — have already started to fight the plan even before it's been finalized.

Residents who would lose their homes have been meeting with attorneys to discuss how to defend themselves. The Prospect Heights Action Coalition, which has been leading the fight, invited Bouton to stop the arena, just this week brought former Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton to its site and lead a rally against the arena.

Despite the announcements this week, most people still remain skeptical.

"[Ratner's] trying to make people think that everything is sewed up except for the final signature on the contract," Patti Hagan, a leader of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, said.

Jim DeBosch, a spokesman

for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which operates the Meadowlands complex, includes the Nets' current home, the Continental Airlines Arena, says the group is still in discussions with Kushner over a \$150 million renovation of the arena, including doubling the number of luxury boxes from 29 to 60.

"Anybody who says they have a deal sounds premature," DeBosch said Thursday.

In order to build Ratner would have to first obtain developer rights from the Long Island Rail Road yards and get the state to take over two square blocks of privately owned property by eminent domain, a power of the state used to seize property for the public good.

The project, most of which is on MTA-owned land, would go through state review, bypassing the more rigorous city land use review process.

Speakers for both Ratner and the mayor have said the community will have input into the plan, but it is not clear what role, if any, the public will play.

The financing for the project is still not entirely clear.

Ratner, who is seeking Liberty Bonds to complete his New York Times building in Manhattan, said plans for taxes generated from the arena — everything from concession sales to players' multi-million salaries — to complete the surrounding office and residential buildings.



The Brooklyn Papers / John Goldstein

Jim Bouton at Tuesday's rally.

as tall as 60 stories.

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Bouton railed against the tax abatement calling it "corporate welfare."

And he warned that if it gets built, the arena will one day also face obsolescence. "If this stadium gets built, 20 years from now you'll hear, 'These Frank Gehry stadiums are old and dated.' So we're going to be leaving Brooklyn for another place with a Libskind stadium," Bouton said, referring to the World Trade Center site architect Daniel Libeskind.

After the rally, Bouton worked as a sportscaster at WABC and WCBS, and did not go unrecognized during his Prospect Heights speech.

"Hey, I know that guy," shouted a Long Island Rail Road employee as Bouton passed by.

Dennis Petersen, an avid sports fan, has been working for the LIRR since the late 1980s.

"Why should people have to lose their homes?" asked Petersen. "Just five blocks away the area is in total decay," he said.

"They could build over there."

RAPE...

Continued from page 1

"ACS does not have special guidelines for specifically serving HIV-positive children," Carnevale said when asked if the Atlantic Transitional Center regularly housed HIV-positive youths.

The rape elicited a split response this week from the community, which has been fighting to close the center for more than 25 years.

Many vocal opponents of the center — including Assemblywoman Valerie Gold, Rep. David Yassky — have taken a softer approach since Valerie Gold was installed as director of the facility in September 2002.

"A lot of people have turned their backs on the facility," said Millman, who has long called for its closing but is now calling on the community to take a more active involvement in improving the facility.

But many civic leaders who joined the Atlantic Transitional Center Advisory Council when it first formed seven years ago, are doubtful that anything will change.

"This place has always been a problem to the neighborhood," said Charles Grunberg, the former president of the Boerum Hill Association.

"They got it down to a science," said Grunberg. "For the director, he meets with the community and tells them, 'Oh I know we've had problems but give us a chance to work it out.'

Sandy Balboza, a member of the Avenue Betterment Association, a former advisory council member, said she left the council because nobody listened to their concerns.

"We were stonewalled," said Balboza. "Even when we knew about things, they would say it's an isolated incident. How many isolated incidents can you have?

"The community is not against the boys," she said. "We're against the city putting a facility here and not supervising and making sure they want it closed."

But Sue Wolfe, current president of the Boerum Hill Association, was more optimistic.

"We have to make the best of it and that is of community participation," said Wolfe, who said plans to join the advisory council are in the works.

In perhaps the most notorious incident at the center before the recent rape, a 15-year-old boy living there was tortured over a period of six hours during a weekend in October 2000 by four 17-year-old residents, who beat him with a baseball bat, forced him to sit in a chair, burned him with a scalpel, held a belt buckle and forced soiled underpants

into his mouth in what police called a gang initiation.

In March 2001, a resident of the facility stabbed another in the back while four of them were on a trip to East New York on a day pass.

But in the last year, the number of incidents at the center has decreased from 18 in 2002 to six in 2003, according to ACS.

"We've seen improvement," said Deputy Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct.

According to Carnevale, that overall reduction in incidents requiring police attention can be attributed to the ongoing efforts of Gold and the work with the community involving the advisory council.

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Rep. Major Owens speaks out against the war in Iraq and corporate greed during "Rally to Beat Bush" Sunday.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

With the Iowa caucuses just a week away, the Democratic presidential candidates are hot on the campaign trail, kissing babies, shaking the hands of union members and talking to the people of Des Moines to try to vote in their direction.

So it's no surprise that when the Working Families Party and the Lambda Independent Democrats (LID) hosted a debate in Park Slope last Sunday afternoon, the nine presidential wannabees were nowhere to be found.

Instead, local elected officials, former elected officials and concerned residents lined up to hear what the presidential candidates in their organizations called a "Rally to Beat Bush" at Camp Friendship at Eighth Street at Sixth Avenue.

The debate by proxy, the candidates differed in their views on how to proceed in Iraq and on national healthcare, but the one unifying rallying call was a need to defeat the current administration.

"No goner is ever stronger than getting rid of George Bush," said LID President Dan Tietz. The 26-year-old, Park Slope-based Democratic club is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political club in New York City.

After introducing the debate, Tietz slipped into his role as Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

More than 60 people, several of whom were already supporting another candidate, packed the hall to learn more about the presidential hopefuls and stood at different degrees of alertness throughout the two-hour event.

Representatives from former House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, of Missouri, and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich also spoke to make their impassioned pleas.

Michael Estterowitz, a Park Slope resident and public school teacher in Bensonhurst, had been a Dean supporter but said he decided to give him something to think about.

"I found Edwards and Clark a little more interesting," Estterowitz said, referring to the performances by DeBlasio and Albanese.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 17, 2004

Out of Africa

The art of Kenya is on view at five Brooklyn locations

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Imagine a trio of stationary zebras set against a brilliant blue sky or the bold, red fabric swathing a trio of fall Massai or the bust of a black woman, carved from wood, and sprouting glinting, silver nails bent to form the curls of her hair.

These rarely seen artworks from Kenya can be experienced in the flesh all over Brooklyn as part of the "Kenya Art" show, organized by Five Myles gallery director Hanne Tierney.

After two years of labor, the ambitious "Kenya Art" show—an exhibition of 96 artworks in a variety of media—is on display at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, the Wexler Art & Ideas Gallery in Crown Heights, the Kentler International Drawing Space in Red Hook, Long Island University's Salena Gallery in Downtown Brooklyn and the Welancora Gallery in Bedford-Stuyvesant through Feb. 29.

About 50 artists are represented in this show, which is the first major exhibition of art of eastern Africa's Kenya as opposed to the more frequently exhibited works of western Africa. (All of the artists live and work in Kenya with the exception of Meek Gichigwa, who now lives in France.)

"Kenya Art" was curated by Judy Ogana, director of Kenya Thus Mwana Art Studio and Carol Lees, program coordinator at Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, both based in Nairobi.

On Jan. 14, Ogana and Lees joined Tierney at the Central Library for a panel discussion about this momentous borough-wide exhibition.

The show was the brainchild of Tierney, who exhibits works from Africa every two years at her gallery. On a visit to Nairobi she viewed contemporary artwork in the national museum. "To use a downtown word, it blew me away," she said.

Tierney speculated that the dearth of Kenyan art in the international scene might just be because their modern art scene is so new, although they've been making art since



the beginning of time.

"The first art venues appeared only after Kenya's independence, in 1963," said Tierney.

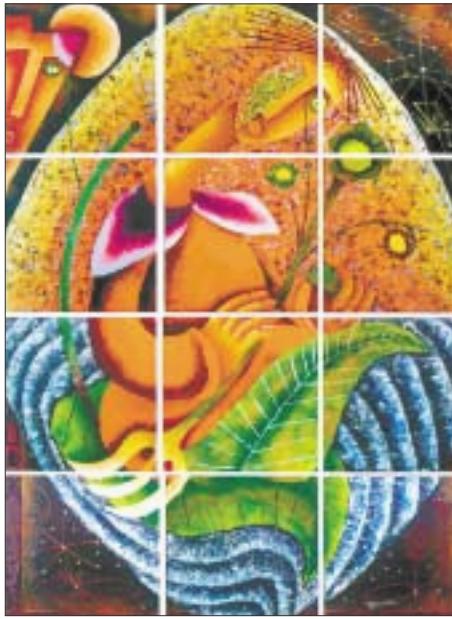
It's an art scene not yet dominated by the pressure of sales or financial commitments, but rather by the exhilaration that accompanies the beginning of a journey," she said.

The curator explained that their mission was to select a broad swath of artwork from contemporary Kenyan artists—and this is just the tip of the iceberg, she believes.

"The works we selected are a cross-section of what could be found," said Ogana. "It's not comprehensive. It's not all encompassing, just a taste of what East Africa has to offer."

Performance artist Bantu Mwaura said that even the nature of Kenyan art is different from the Western concept of painting, sculpture or song.

"What's interesting about art in Kenya is that in the Western world what is considered



Rare glimpses: Pieces included in the "Kenya Art" exhibit are Beatrice Wangeci's acrylic on paper, "Maasai Women" (left), and Simon Murithi's "Homeward Coming" a 12-piece painting (above). Both are on display at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library.

fine art is really an interesting fusion in Kenya," said Mwaura. "There's a word for dance and song. It's the same word, because there could be no song without dance."

Mwaura said he was inspired by a political cartoonist's work, so he made a theater piece based on it.

Tierney pointed out the differences between West and East African art.

"My impression of West African artists is that they are more traditional, much closer to the roots of African art," Tierney said. "She said, 'One of the strengths here [in this exhibit] is that it is not an invited animation. We like it's most like jazz. People speak because it's in them, not someone else's voice.'

At the Central Library there are several large, colorful paintings tucked away in the Lobby Gallery, overlooking the main floor. Art lovers will be rewarded for sleuthing them out by the sight of Simon Murithi's "Homeward Coming," a dense, complicated composition painted and scratched onto the 12 canvases, incorporating a woman curled inside an oval with flowers. A man's face peeks in from behind her, and another figure, watching the woman, or perhaps, the viewer.

Also in the Lobby Gallery is Elijah Ooko's "A Group of Zebras," which takes the unconventional, and humorous, approach of painting a trio of the striped animals from below.

Kenyan storytelling for families, with Bangi Mwaura, on Feb. 1 at 2 pm, and "in-the-round" poetry readings in Swahili and English on Feb. 8 at 2 pm at the Central Library.

Opening reception for the Kentler International Drawing Space exhibit on Jan. 17 from 2 to 5 pm.

Reception for the Salena Gallery's exhibition of Kenya's second-generation artists, on Feb. 11, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

baskets on a towering, bending stick.

Now on display at the Welancora Gallery are paintings from two artist communities in rural Kenya: Banana Hill and the Ngcheba Group. Mwana said that the Banana Hill group, run by Nicole Jones, will soon be the first auction house dedicated to selling work by artists of African descent.)

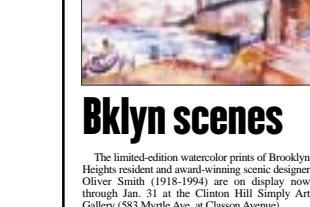
Now on display at Tierney's own Five Myles gallery and performance space, are the works of "tiny nation" artists such as Sane Wamala, Sisi and Amadou Wane.

According to Tierney, "These [first-generation] artists are little influenced by the Western parameters of academic training. They are the originators of modern art in Kenya."

Two Kenyan artists, whose work is on display now at the Salena Gallery at Long Island University, are Mwana and Peter Kamau. Kamau, will be in residence at the Five Myles gallery working on an installation of a chicken coop, which will be unveiled at the Salena for its reception on Feb. 11 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Several New York artists will be invited to create chickens for the coop, said Tierney.

The Ford Foundation thought it would be very nice and important to have two artists come to New York and profit from the experience—so they invited Tierney to bring the exhibition to New York, Tierney said.

The last piece of the肯特-wide show is an exhibit of works by "second-generation" artists, including Kamathi, Ooko and Irene Wanjiru, among others, at the Salena Gallery.



Bklyn scenes

The limited-edition watercolor prints of Brooklyn Heights resident and award-winning scenic designer Oliver Smith (1918-1994) are on display now through Jan. 31 at the Clinton Hill Simply Art Gallery (583 Myrtle Ave. at Classon Avenue).

Broadway Art Enterprises is the exclusive publisher of Smith's watercolor prints, paintings, drawings and stage renderings and they have chosen Clinton Hill Simply Art to preview the newly released, giclees of watercolors Smith painted of Brooklyn.

Smith's "Brooklyn Bridge II" watercolor circa 1940s is pictured.

The artist, a Wisconsin native, moved to Midagh Street in 1939, later bought a home on Willow Street (made famous in Truman Capote's "The House on the Heights") and lived here until his death. (In addition to set design, Smith was co-director of the American Ballet Theatre from 1945 to 1960.)

Gallery owner Luria LB Brown says, "While I am familiar with such musicals as 'Hello Dolly,' 'My Fair Lady,' 'West Side Story,' 'Brigadoon,' 'Camelot,' 'On the Town,' 'Oklahoma,' 'Guys and Dolls,' I did not know the eight-time Tony Award-winner, nor was I familiar with Oliver Smith as a painter, but I know Brooklyn."

"Once I viewed Mr. Smith's Brooklyn watercolors from abstract to figurative, I felt his passion—Brooklyn."

For more information about gallery hours, call (718) 857-0074.

—Lisa J. Curtis

Where to GO

"Kenya Art" will be on display through Feb. 29 at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library at Grand Army Plaza (718) 230-2100, www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org; Kentler International Drawing Space, 353 Van Brunt St. at Wooster Street in Red Hook (718) 875-2093; Long Island University's Salena Gallery, at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 488-1198; Welancora Gallery, 17 Bedford Avenue at Nostrand Avenue; and Five Myles, 558 St. Johns Place between Clarkson and Franklin avenues in Crown

Heights (718) 783-4438.

The entire exhibition is free and open to the public.

Related events, which are also free, include:

"Golden Libations" presents spoken-word performances at Five Myles on Feb. 15 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Kenyan storytelling for families, with Bangi Mwaura, on Feb. 1 at 2 pm, and "in-the-round" poetry readings in Swahili and English on Feb. 8 at 2 pm at the Central Library.

Opening reception for the Kentler International Drawing Space exhibit on Jan. 17 from 2 to 5 pm.

Reception for the Salena Gallery's exhibition of Kenya's second-generation artists, on Feb. 11, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

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BROOKLYN Bites

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:
PARK SLOPE'S SEVENTH AVENUE

Cafe Steinhof

222 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 269-7776
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$6-\$13 *

Cafe Steinhof, named after a famous park in Vienna, has a European feel. In fact, it's run by the same couple of owner and chef Paul Goebert, who also owns the restaurant serves spaetzle (small dumplings), schweinshaxe (roasted pork knuckle), sauerbraten (beef that's been marinated for several days and then roasted). Cafe Steinhof offers a variety of international fare from France, Italy, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and Britain, as well as wine and a full bar. Cafe Steinhof is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday evenings are closed for dinner. On Monday nights instead of the usual menu, \$5 bowls of goulash and \$7 sautéed trout are offered.

Cocina Cuzco

222 Seventh Ave. at Third Street, (718) 788-5036 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$5-\$15.50

This colorful eatery has a colorful menu, as well, featuring Peruvian specialties. From Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. The stunningly picturesquely interior is a colorful mix with a gorgeous salt-and-pepper interior and a bright red and yellow exterior. The food is Peruvian-style cooking, with meat (chicken, beef) and vegetables (potato) stuffed with beef, mixed veggies and raisins, served with salsa criolla. If you're a ceviche fan, go for the ceviche marinado, which is marinated in lime, ginger, garlic and coconut juice.

Some options for the main courses: camarones al ajillo, shrimp in garlic sauce served with white rice; arroz con pollo, chicken and rice with olive oil with broccoli, spinach and asparagus, brought to your table flame; or bandas paisa, Colombian-style churrasco with onions, bell peppers, rice, beans and plantain. Sidewalk cafe seats in season.

Corn Bread Cafe

224 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 768-3838; www.cornbreadcafe.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$8.15-\$16.50

This colorful eatery has a colorful menu, as well, featuring Peruvian specialties. From Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. The stunningly picturesquely interior is a colorful mix with a gorgeous salt-and-pepper interior and a bright red and yellow exterior. The food is Peruvian-style cooking, with meat (chicken, beef) and vegetables (potato) stuffed with beef, mixed veggies and raisins, served with salsa criolla. If you're a ceviche fan, go for the ceviche marinado, which is marinated in lime, ginger, garlic and coconut juice.

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Corn Bread Cafe

224 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 768-3838; www.cornbreadcafe.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$8.15-\$16.50

Owner and chef Bettina Hause's Corn Bread Cafe keeps things interesting with its down-home looks and taste. "I'm from New Orleans," says the Maryland crab cakes comes with remoulade, crawfish etouffée and pimento cheese. There's no ordinary soul food restaurant. Corn Bread Cafe's Po' Boy sandwich is a classic, or fish served on a baguette topped with tartar sauce. The fried chicken sandwiches are humble but delectable. Desserts like the double chocolate cake are decadent, but the price is a sweet ending. Enjoy their outdoor patio when warmer weather returns. Open daily. Weekend brunch, too.

Fuji San

161 Seventh Ave. at First Street, (718) 768-3976 (MC, Visa) Entrées: \$8.15-\$16.50

A relaxing lunch or dinner, with large portions, is what you can expect at Fuji San. An affable pair of such chefs greet you at the door, forcing you to choose between watching what's cooking in the kitchen or the dining room. Hiyaki, marinated seaweed with bean curd and carrots is a fresh opener, or a la carte sushi selection might be what you're looking for. Tempura? Sure! And the tempura is good. The salmon teriyaki? Or try the buttery scallops, lightly battered, broiled and served with the chef's special sauce. Sashimi is also available. The chef's special soufflé teri (with oven-baked sauce), tofu teriyaki, vegetarian sushi and maki are available.

Wrap it up with a delicious flavored ginger, and have green tea or cream or have the ice cream tempura style encased in a crunchy fried coating. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Inaka Sushi House

236 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 499-7856 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$9.60-\$16.50

The making of those beautiful little works of art is what you can expect at Inaka Sushi. For a start, sit at the bar where owner Joanne Wu's cadre of superb sushi chefs work their magic. You may be a connoisseur of the art, or a beginner; either way, a good idea for beginners is to order the nine-piece sushi deluxe box, which contains a variety of fish, including salmon, tuna, mackerel, white fish in several varieties, shrimp and tuna roll. Sushi can also be ordered a la carte and Inaka's dishes expertly seasoned and melt-in-your-mouth tender.

* = Full review available at
Brooklyn Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American
Express; DC= Diner's Club; Disc= Discover
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Southern classics at Corn Bread Cafe.

Joe's Pizza

127 Seventh Ave. at Carroll Street, (718) 398-9198 and (718) 399-9201 (Pizzas: \$11 and up)

Fans of the famous Joe's Pizza on Mulberry Street will travel to Brooklyn for a slice or more. Joe's opened its Park Slope outpost in July 2003, and it offers up the same crisp, thin-crusted pizzas, including the meat lover's pizza with toppings (ricotta and mozzarella without tomato sauce) or Sicilian pizzas. And there's no need to stand at those circular tables to eat — Joe's Pizza in Brooklyn has plenty of seating. Open daily.

Master Wok

220 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street, (718) 499-2500 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$6-\$12.95

Chef-owner Mei Fang Chang has presided over kitchens for more than 10 years. Trained in Taiwan, he now merges the spicy, sour and sweet styles. General Tso's is chicken, deep-fried chicken with a zesty sauce, is one of the most popular dishes. The Shrimp Lo Mein is a bowl chocky, a sautéed vegetable dish. The lunch menu includes rice, soup and a main dish.

Oshima

717 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place, (718) 783-1888 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$10-\$26 sashimi

Oshima has done away with its previous dedication to traditional Japanese cuisine. You'll enjoy the fusion of Japanese and Western cooking techniques in the restaurant's new in the full line of rolls (including the Popeye (\$7.95), with spinach, guacamole, avocados and wasabi), sushi, tempura, bento boxes, soufflés, etc. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Paradou

220 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 499-4557 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$11-\$17.50

Chef Robert Urbano gets rave reviews for his dessert crepes, charlotte platters and his roasted tomatoes and goat cheese. Since he's also very fond of seafood, he offers Chilean sea bass, scallops, the duck confit, cassoulet and coq au vin.

Paradou opened at the end of September, the old Max Moritz location, occupying 40 to 50 percent of the space, and now has a large outdoor garden (and a Cava).

Halkias, who claims to have been 35 for many years with a wife, bought the building in 1984. Before that, he says, he was "running around happily, sleeping as much as I wanted before I entered the restaurant business." Now, which has taken 20 years to renovate, When he bought it, most of the walls were painted black and there were holes in the floor and barrels in some of the rooms. All the molding had been

stripped off the walls, there were drop ceilings, and the chandeliers were gone, recalls Halkias.

But the Grand Prospect Hall has been restored to former grandeur.

"It's not a bird," says Halkias. The hall was built in 1902 by Brooklyn civic and social leaders, and then rebuilt in 1903 after a fire. Many celebrity patrons have visited, including gangster Al Capone, dancer Fred Astaire and opera singer Franco Corelli, and movie stars such as "The Cotton Club," "Prizzi's Honor" and "The Royal Tenenbaums" have filmed scenes there.

The building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is certainly grander than it was 12

rooms, from the Grand Ballroom, which seats 2,000, to the speakeasy where Capone is rumored to have received his fat

scar. There's even a 10-lane bowling alley in the basement. Rococo decor abounds, with 23.75-carat gold leaf on ornate staircase railings, crown moldings and shadow boxes of sherbet — tangerine, pistachio and strawberry — on the ceiling.

The Grand Ballroom was once a German opera house, covered in dark paint. Now the 80-foot by 130-foot

space is a theater, with a stage and a proscenium, and a vaudeville stage is completely restored. The 40-foot by 130-foot sky-light room next door retains its original tin ceilings and walls, and opens onto a brand-new atrium with granite floors

and a Cava.

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'Dream' team

BAM celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a star-studded tribute

By Paulianne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House is not only the largest King celebration in New York City, but also one of the most star-studded, featuring some of the top performing artists and men and women of influence in the black community.

This year's 18th annual "Come Share the Dream" celebration on Jan. 19 will feature performances by Wynton Marsalis, jazz musician and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as performances by the Boys Choir of Harlem, The Persuasions, the Brooklyn Tabernacle (and former Underground Railroad stop) Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene, the Lafayette inspirational Ensemble.

The event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Boys Choir of Harlem will perform a number of songs, including "Precious Lord" and "We Are Heroes," by Linda Twine and Lee Cooper.

"We Are Heroes" was written some time ago, but it speaks to Dr. King," choir founder and leader Dr. Walter J. Turnbull said.

Although the choir has per-



King for a day: The 2004 documentary, "Citizen King," directed by Orlando Bagwell and Noland Walker, will be screened on Jan. 19 as part of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, right, will give the keynote address.

formed in Brooklyn many times, as well as nationally and internationally, the young singers have not been heard at BAM recently.

EVENT

The Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Come Share the Dream" tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. will be held on Jan. 19 at 2:30 p.m. at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House. Following the event will be screenings of the documentary "Citizen King" at the BAM Rose Cinema, BAM Howard Gilman Opera House and BAM Rose Cinemas from 7:30 until 9 p.m. at the Adelphi Place in Fort Greene. The Opera House ticket office will be open to the public with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (718) 636-4100.

"We are always proud to be a part of any Martin Luther King celebration. His goals were similar to those of the Boys Choir," said Turnbull.

The Choir Academy of

Harlem was founded 32 years ago at Ephesus Church "to give kids something interesting and exciting to do," Turnbull said. Boys and girls are recruited from all five boroughs and auditions are held in every community in Harlem. The Boys Choir is drawn from the academy and "that small group became international."

In addition to its regular school and community choirs, the Boys Choir of Harlem has performed at the United Nations 30th Anniversary Concert, the Statue of Liberty centennial and celebration, Pope John Paul II's Sunrise Mass in Central Park, President Bill Clinton's 1993 Inauguration and the ceremony for the African Burial Ground Re-interment Project.

As for the Persuasions, they are one of the few groups founded in Brooklyn that went on to achieve international



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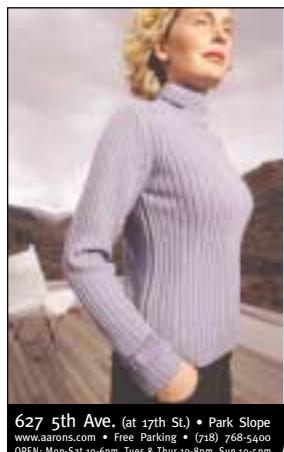
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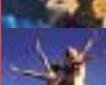
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SEASON

 <p>Caillou's Big Party sponsored by Morgan Chase and CAA Saturday - January 17, 2004 - 2pm Ages 3 - 8 • Tickets: \$20</p>	 <p>Freddie McGregor sponsored by Conquest Saturday - January 24, 2004 - 8pm Tickets: \$35, \$30</p>
 <p>Principals and Soloists of the Royal Danish Ballet with special guest Nikolaj Hübbe, New York City Ballet Sunday - January 25, 2004 - 2pm Tickets: \$35</p>	 <p>Max Levinson, piano sponsored by Conquest Sunday - February 1, 2004 - 2pm Tickets: \$30</p>
 <p>Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana Saturday - February 7, 2004 - 8pm Tickets: \$30</p>	 <p>Brooklyn Center debut! Tuesday - Saturday 1 - 6pm Group Sales 718.951.4600 ext 6</p>

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Where to GO

SAT, JAN 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ICE SKATING at the Prospect Park Wollman Rink. Sessions from 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm, 6 pm to 9 pm. \$10 per session, 53 seniors and students. \$5 skater rental fee. Enter Prospect Park. Call 718.636.4343.

PERFORMANCE

CONCERT: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Praise Music," a gospel program featuring the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, gospel and gospel choirs Total Praise and New Life Tabernacle Choir. \$25, \$20, 7:30 pm. Hotel Indigo, 200 Montague St., 8th fl., Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a chamber music concert of Beethoven, Brahms and Bruch. \$35, \$30 seniors and students. Fulton Ferry Landing, 373 42nd St., 8th fl., Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 424-2000.

DANCE: Brooklyn Arts Nexus presents SB Dance in "The Bucket," a fantasy on the theme of "Bucket Seats." 7 pm. 205 N. Second St. (718) 599-7797.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." 7 pm. 1st fl., children's theater. \$15, \$10 seniors and children. 26 Willow Place between State and Clinton Aves. (718) 237-2752.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE presents "Hiroshima Maiden." Puppet theater drama based on the true story of the Hiroshima Maidens, a group of Japanese women disfigured by the nuclear blast. \$25, 8 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl.

SHAKESPEARE: Waterford Bridge Theater Company presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will." 8 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 8th fl., 4th fl. 8 pm. See Sat., Jan. 17.

PARLOR JAZZ: Jazz vocalists Katie Bull and Anna Gourari perform. 8 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 8th fl., 4th fl. 9:30 pm and 10:45 pm. \$19. Vendôme Ave. (718) 855-1981.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY: presents presents with Plan A. No cover. 10 pm. 4th fl., 4th fl. 406 Sixth Ave. (718) 369-4814.

THEATER: Brooklyn Children's Museum All-Stars. No cover. 10 pm. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: "Extral! Extral!" living history workshop for children 8 to 16 and their families. Workshop includes costume fitting, make-up, plus caring and raising of the puppets. \$10 per child. \$15 for adults. 5 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl., Brooklyn Children's Museum. Call, Prospect Park, (718) 377-7749.

OTHER: Brooklyn Children's Museum presents "Calico's Big Party." Audience participation and family fun. \$20. 2 pm. Wall Street, 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

WEDS, JAN 21

FILM: Watch Club presents "Love is a Many Splendored Thing." 7 pm. Hotel Indigo, and the Holy Trinity Church, Clinton and Montague Streets. (718) 673-6960. **FREE**

ARTS COUNCIL: Brooklyn Community Development Corp. offers a program "Property Owners: How to Build a Good Neighborhood." 7 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl. \$15. Court St. (718) 858-0577. **Free.**

MEETING: Community Board 7 meets. 8 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl. \$15. Court St. (718) 858-0577. **Free.**

RECEPTION: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will?" 3 pm. See Sat., Jan. 17.

AUDITIONS: Impact Theater hosts a tryout for "The Devil Wears Prada." 8 pm. Call for appointment. (718) 323-1256.

FITNESS: Gwinnett's Health & Sporting Goods Store presents a certified personal trainer demonstrating exercises and fitness techniques. 8 am to 9 am. 100 Columbia Place. Noon to 2 pm. 89-59 Bay Parkway. (212) 845-0000. ext. 379. **Free.**

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OTHER

BREEDING CLINIC: Brooklyn Aquarion Society offers a talk, "Breeding Dogs and Hints." Learn everything you need to know about breeding dogs, plus caring and raising of the puppies. \$10 per couple. \$5 for each additional person. 8 pm. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl., Brooklyn Children's Museum. Call, Prospect Park, (718) 377-7749.

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BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "Sing and Dance with Suzi." \$4, free for children ages 2 to 5. 100 Columbia Place, 10th fl., 1st fl. Brooklyn Children's Museum. (718) 735-4400.

SWING DANCE CLASS: Dancewave invites you to learn the art of swing dancing. Classes for children ages 6 to 18 years. \$12. Brooklyn Music School, 125 St. Felix St. Call for appointment. (718) 266-2548.

OTHER

SUNDAY PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a platform "Music Unites Us." 1 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum. (718) 735-4400.

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Miller's tale

The Heights Players production of Arthur Miller's 'View from the Bridge' is heart-wrenching drama

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Paper

In Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge," now at the Heights Players, the bridge is the Brooklyn Bridge and the scene is grim, gritty and violent.

Miller certainly spent many years in the borough. The son of a Jew who worked in the garment industry, Miller had his bar mitzvah at the Avenue M Synagogue and passed most of his life in Brooklyn wood. And as a grown man, he lived in Brooklyn Heights with his second wife, Marilyn Monroe.

But this tale is of blue-collar Jewish immigrants who live in Red Hook and make their living working on the docks. Miller was determined to make a tragic hero of a man who has no special claim to greatness.

In his famous 1949 essay "Tragedy and the Common Man," Miller wrote: "Insistence upon the rank of the tragic hero, the so-called nobility of his character is rearranging the world forms of tragedy; rank and nobility of character was indispensable, then it would follow that the problems of those with rank were the particular problems of tragedy. But tragedy is not concerned with the rank of a man, but with the drama of another who longer no longer retains the rights of a man."

It's in his famous 1949 essay

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Arthur Miller's neighborhood lawyer, Alfieri (the perfectly calm, thoughtful and effective Steven Bergquist), serves as the narrator/chorus, "A View from the Bridge" unfolds much like a Greek tragedy, tragedy is not concerned with the rank of a man, but with the drama of another who longer no longer retains the rights of a man."

The object of Eddie's love

is his niece, Catherine (Vanlano), whom he has raised since the death of her mother. Over the years, Eddie's love for his niece has become a kind of obsession that interferes with his sexual and emotional relationship with his wife, Beatrice (Penny Frank), and prevents him from letting Catherine move up, get a job and leave home.

The situation comes to a head when Catherine starts dating Rodolpho (Jamie Wollrab), Beatrice's cousin and the younger brother of Eddie. Catherine has agreed to temporarily put up the Sicilian immigrants, who have entered the country illegally with the intention of working on the docks.

Eddie's wife now regrets his generosity.

Wollrab's Rodolpho is charming and courteous. He



Red Hook story: (Top photo) Pierre O'Farrell as Eddie Carbone, LeeAnn Vanlano as Catherine and Penny Frank as Beatrice Carbone in the Heights Players production of "A View from the Bridge." (Above) Jamie Wollrab as Rodolpho with Vanlano.

sings, dances, and most of all, he's respectful. But Catherine's uncle refuses to see any of this.

Eddie claims he objects to Rodolpho because the young Italian only wants to marry her and become a citizen, or worse yet, because "he just ain't right" — code words for homosexuality.

a woman, who now seems hopelessly beyond our liberalized understanding, not only convincing but worthy of our sympathy.

Presenting "A View from the Bridge" on an open three-sided stage is quite a challenge. Although the intimacy of the Heights Players' theater works for them, the fact that after during the most intense emotional scenes one or more of the audience members have to leave the auditorium is a definite problem.

Even more problematic are the activities of the circling denizens of Red Hook who appear between scenes but are sometimes hard to discern or comprehend. Other interruptions are slow and awkward and seem more like interruptions than mood-setters.

When "A View from the Bridge" was first presented at the Cortland Theater in 1955, it was once-and-a-half hours long with Miller's "Memory of Two Mondays." The following year, Miller revised the script into a two-act drama for Peter Brook to produce in London.

It's not clear even Miller did not at the depth of his own work.

Fortunately, the Heights Players have treated Miller's play with great attention and respect. This is a heartwarming production that will keep your hands clenched and your eyes riveted — indeed sometimes full.

THEATER

The Heights Players production of "A View from the Bridge" plays through Saturday, Jan. 10, and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and children. The Heights Players are located at 26 Washington Street between State and Joralemon streets in Brooklyn Heights. For reservations, call (718) 488-0430 • theheightsbrooklyn.com

Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.

The imminent tragedy is as obvious as the knife serving as the weapon on both sides.

Under the direction of Heights Players veteran Robert J. Weinstein ("Sweet Bird of Youth," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Inherit the Wind"), the Heights Players have brought out all the energy and compassion in Miller's play.

O'Farrell does his turn as an injured hero. His eloquence lies in narrative rage and the overwhelming desire he proclaims or even admits.

Valrano excels at the even more difficult task of making

the audience sit up and take notice.

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Continued from page GO 2 men's dining room (it was built in the Victorian era, after all) is open to the public in shiny, tiger oak, visible only after Halikas and his employees scraped off many thick layers of paint.

The 60-seat bar and grill, open for cocktails and casual dining, is open until 11:30 p.m., 2 a.m. and with happy hour from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The 120-seat supper club offers a more formal dining area, dancing to live music Monday through Saturday, and is open for Sunday brunch, as well.

"You can do anything here but sleep," says Halikas.

Artisans from the "old countries," as he calls them, are employed for the careful grilling work. The menu ranges from \$19 to \$29, and include favorites like paella and filet mignon. The menu will vary by season.

"Chances are," the Grand Prospect Hall brochure states, "you have seen us in your dreams." With the advent of the Oak Room, Brooklynites can see it in reality.

Turkish-born chef Michel

Aytekin has created an international fusion menu that reflects not only the clientele but the multi-ethnic workforce, including Halikas, who was born in America but spent many years in his family's native Turkey. The menu ranges from \$19 to \$29, and include favorites like paella and filet mignon. The menu will vary by season.

"Chances are," the Grand Prospect Hall brochure states, "you have seen us in your dreams." With the advent of the Oak Room, Brooklynites can see it in reality.

downtown scene washes over south and central Brooklyn. Prospect Avenue, which doesn't look quite as polished as its northern neighbors — is bound to improve.

And by reopening the supper club, Halikas makes the Grand Prospect Hall accessible to all of Kings County, providing some of the mystery away.

Waiters line up at the grand opening of the Oak Room at Grand Prospect Hall.

over downtown arts scene washes over south and central Brooklyn. Prospect Avenue, which doesn't look quite as polished as its northern neighbors — is bound to improve.

Waiters line up at the grand opening of the Oak Room at Grand Prospect Hall.

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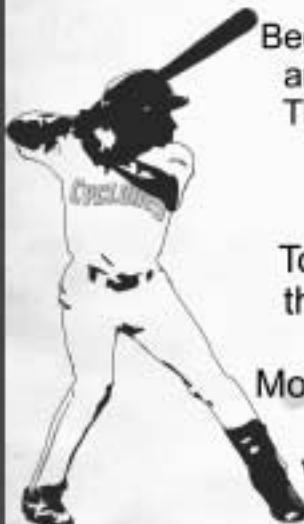
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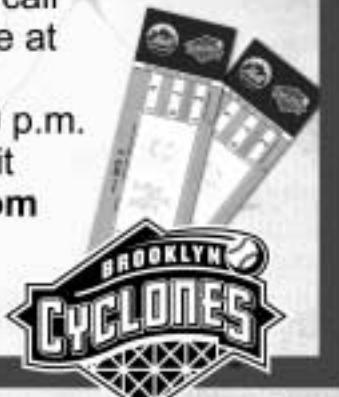
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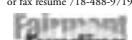
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